

# VACCINE POINTS

“Vaccine Points” is a bi-monthly communication distributed by the Hawaii Department of Health to all participating Vaccines for Children (VFC) providers.

Test your vaccine knowledge.

**Question:** Hepatitis A vaccination is recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) for which of the following? Select all that apply.

- a) 19-year-old who works at McDonalds
- b) 16-year-old homeless teen
- c) 20-year-old childcare facility worker
- d) 12-month-old who received hepatitis A vaccine at age 8 months due to travel to Vietnam
- e) Previously unvaccinated 7-year-old sibling of a newly adopted child from China

**Answer:** b, d, e

Unvaccinated children aged 2 – 18 years should complete a 2-dose hepatitis A series as “catch-up” vaccination.

All persons aged 1 year and older experiencing homelessness should be routinely immunized against hepatitis A. Persons experiencing homelessness might have difficulty implementing recommended nonvaccine strategies to protect themselves from exposure to hepatitis A disease (e.g., access to clean toilet facilities, regular handwashing, and avoidance of crowded living conditions). Hepatitis A vaccination of persons experiencing homelessness will provide individual protection and increase herd immunity over time, reducing the risk of large-scale, person-to-person outbreaks in this population.

Hepatitis A vaccine is recommended for infants aged 6-11 months traveling internationally to countries with high or intermediate hepatitis A endemicity. The travel-related dose for infants aged 6-11 months should not be counted toward the routine 2-dose series.

Hepatitis A vaccination is recommended for all previously unvaccinated persons who anticipate close personal contact (e.g., household contact or regular babysitting) with an international adoptee from a country of high or intermediate endemicity during the first 60 days following arrival in the U.S.

Only persons who work with hepatitis A virus (HAV)-infected primates or with HAV in a research laboratory setting should be vaccinated. No other populations have been demonstrated to be at increased risk for HAV infection because of occupational exposure.

**Sources:**

Prevention of Hep A Through Active or Passive Immunization: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr5507.pdf>  
Use of Hep A Vaccine in Close Contacts of Newly Arriving International Adoptees: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/wk/mm5836.pdf>  
Use of Hep A Vaccine for Postexposure Prophylaxis and for Preexposure Prophylaxis for International Travel: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/67/wr/pdfs/mm6743a5-H.pdf>  
Use of Hepatitis A Vaccine for Persons Experiencing Homelessness: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/68/wr/pdfs/mm6806a6-H.pdf>

